

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 3 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-8, and add Claim 11 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device comprising:  
an imaging device;  
an instruction unit that instructs the selection of a given chromatic color area on a photography screen;  
a storage unit that stores ~~a plurality of correction values which correspond to a plurality of persons' skin colors, respectively, wherein each of the correction values is information about a skin color axis for each of the plurality of different persons' skin colors~~ a preset color detection range for a first person's skin color and an additional color detection range for a second person's skin color which is additionally set by a user's operation;  
a selection unit that selects one of the first and second plurality of persons' skin colors; and  
a white balance processing unit that specifies a color detection range of a skin color on the basis of the skin color axis information which is the correction value stored in said storage unit and corresponds to the person's skin color selected the selection result by said selection unit, and conducts white balance processing in accordance with a white balance coefficient that corresponds to a color temperature of the light source obtained on the basis

of the specified color detection range and an output signal of the imaging device representing a parameter of the selected given chromatic color area, and  
a user interface unit that allows a user to adjust the additional color detection range  
on a color space.

2. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the white balance processing unit calculates color evaluated values on the basis of the output signal of the image imaging device, and specifies the color detection range of the skin color the color temperature of the light source on the basis of a color evaluated value that is judged determined to be included in the selected a predetermined chromatic color detection area among the calculated color evaluated values.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device according to claim [[3]],  
wherein the chromatic color detection area the additional color detection range is generated set on the basis of the difference between a color evaluated value of a predetermined skin color which corresponds to the color temperature of the light source calculated using the preset color detection range and a color evaluated value of an actually photographed person's skin color.

5. (Original) An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the instruction unit comprises one of a touch panel and a visual line input.

6. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device according to claim [[3]]1, wherein the predetermined chromatic preset color detection area range is selected from a plurality of areas preset color detection ranges.

7. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined chromatic preset color detection area range is selected on the basis of an input language that is inputted to the image pickup device by a photographer.

8. (Currently Amended) A white balance processing method for an image pickup device, comprising:

instructing a display device that displays an image to select a given chromatic color area of the image on the display device;

storing a plurality of correction values which correspond to a plurality of persons' skin colors respectively, wherein each of the correction values is information about a skin color axis for each of the plurality of different persons' skin colors a preset color detection range for a first person's skin color and an additional color detection range for a second person's skin color which is additionally set by a user's operation;

selecting one of the first and second plurality of persons' skin colors; and

specifying a color detection range of skin color on the basis of the skin color axis information which is the correction value stored in said storing step and corresponds to the person's skin color selected the selection result in said selecting step; and

conducting white balance processing in accordance with a white balance coefficient

that corresponds to a color temperature of the light source obtained on the basis of the specified color detection range and an output signal of an imaging device of the image pickup device representing a parameter of the selected given chromatic color area; and  
providing a user interface unit to allow a user to adjust the additional color  
detection range on a color space.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the user interface unit allows the user to adjust the position of the additional color detection range on a two dimensional color space which is represented by a red and a green direction.